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**NEW STRAINS OF SACCHARAOTHRIX, PROCESS FOR**  
**PRAVASTATIN**  
**PRODUCING PRAVASTATIN USING THE STRAINS AND**  
**ISOLATION PROCESS OF (HMG)-COA REDUCTASE**

**Field of the Invention**

5        The present invention relates to two new microorganism strains of *Saccharothrix*, designated as *YS-44442* and *YS-45494*, a process of producing pravastatin using the strains, and an improved process for isolation of (HMG)-CoA reductase inhibitors.

**Background of the invention**

10       It has been recognized that an elevated blood cholesterol level is one of the major risk factors to atherosclerotic diseases, specifically to coronary heart diseases. The monitor for the cholesterol biosynthesis is very helpful to control the diseases. 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl (HMG)-CoA reductase is the rate-limiting enzyme in the cholesterol biosynthesis. By 15       inhibiting the activity of (HMG)-CoA reductase, blood cholesterol levels in the bodies can be effectively reduced.

20       A number of (HMG)-CoA reductase inhibitors have been discovered, such as pravastatin, compactin, lovastatin. They have the following formula in the lactone form and may exist in other forms such as the acid form or and the salts and esters thereof.